

**REMARKS**

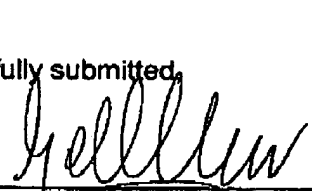
Claims 1-5, which remain in the application, have been amended to avoid or overcome the rejections thereof. As amended, the claims avoid or overcome the 35 USC 112 objections and rejections and the 35 USC 103(a) rejection as being unpatentable over Wearing et al, GB 1,038,945.

Applicants discuss more fully hereunder the amendment and how they avoid or overcome the objections and rejections. Claims 1-5 have been amended to recite vat dyes. Claim 1 is further amended to recite that the vat dyes have been previously converted into an alkali-soluble form by chemical reduction with an aqueous solution containing sodium sulfide and carboxymethyl cellulose. These amendments are in response to the Examiner's argument that the claims should recite vat dyes (see page 3, first full paragraph of the Office Action, Paper No. 9) and that claims should recite the asserted difference of conducting the reaction in the presence of sodium sulfide. (see page 6, first full paragraph of the Office Action, Paper No. 9.) Applicants present herewith the Declaration principally showing the process entailing the use of sodium sulfide and carboxymethyl cellulose, as recited by the claims.

In view of the amendments which are essentially in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, Applicants submit that the claims remaining in the application are patentably distinct over the prior art. Applicants, therefore, pray for the allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
Godfried R. Akorli  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 28,779

Bayer Chemicals Corporation  
100 Bayer Road  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741  
(412) 777-3061  
FACSIMILE PHONE NUMBER:  
(412) 777-2612

s:/sr/akorli/gra0563

Mo-5946

- 5 -